HOOVER REPORTED WARY ON C.I.A. TIES

Ex-Aides Say He Feared Blackmail by Giancana

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WASHINGTON, May 21—J. Edgar Hoover, the late director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, feared that connections between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Chicago Mafia figure Sam Giancana would permit the racketeer to "blackmail the United States Government," according to former bureau officials.

These sources said Mr. Hoover learned that the C.I.A. had recruited Mr. Giancana in an assassination plot against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro from then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy in a private briefing in late 1963 or early 1964.

They said there was no implication that the Attorney General had approved the plot and that it was their impression thHt he learned of the plan after it had been devised and had then told Mr. Hoover.

"Mr. Hoover," one source said, "was deeply concerned that this put Giancana in the position to blackmail the United States Government."

Another source said that the director's worry over the propriety of a Government agency consorting with organized crime leaders was set down in a previously undisclosed memorandum that is part of the file now in the hands of the Rockefeller commission, which is looking into Federal intelligence operations.

Documented in Files

Earlier this week the New York Times reported that the commission, headed by Vice President Rockefeller, had learned of secret files in the Department of Justice, which for the first time could document the long-standing allegation that the C.I.A. recruited two men with organized crime connections in a plot against Mr. Castro.

The official who disclosed the existence of the file to the commission is Will Wilson, a former Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division and now a private lawyer in Texas.

Mr. Wilson declined to comment on the details of his testimony. However, other Justice Department and F.B.I. sources gave this account of events:

Mr. Kennedy was advised by either White House or C.I.A. sources that the agency had approached two men in the underworld, Mr. Giancana and John Roselli, a soldier of fortune and sometime gambler.

Two former Kennedy aides, Adam Walinsky and Peter G. Edelman, have said that Mr. Kennedy later told them he "turned the plan off" when he learned of it. This is a crucial question, according to sources familiar with the Rockefeller commission investigation, and there is no indication whether it has been resolved by either testimony or documents.

Mr. Kennedy briefed Mr.

Hoover and although the sources could not pinpoint the date, they believe the briefing was after the assassination of President Kennedy in November, 1963. At that time, the Chicago field office of the F.B.I. was investigating Mr. Giancana on several racketeering charges. Mr. Roselli was also under investigation and both men were identified as organized crime figures in Justice Department intelligence files.

After Mr. Kennedy left the Justice Department, separate prosecutions were begun against Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli. Both men ultimately spent time behind bars as a result of these cases. William G. Hundley, former chief of the organized crime section of the Department of Justice, has said that the reported connection with the C.I.A. was not a factor in how the department handled the Giancana case.

When the Nixon Administration took office in 1969, the sources said, Mr. Wilson learned of the material in the departmental files and discussed it with Mr. Hoover.

Last week Mr. Wilson was called before the Rockefeller commission early this week. The commission was given authority by President Ford several months ago to investigate allegations of C.I.A. assassination plots against foreign leaders. It is expected to report on June 6.

According to information in a series of articles by the syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli were recruited on behalf of the intelligence agency by Robert A. Maheu, a forme F.B.I. agent who later manage the Las Vegas operations c the billionaire Howard F Hughes.

Several sources have sai that the planned use of under world men was to "cover" th operation so that if Mr. Castr were killed, it would apPea he was a victim of a ganglan vendetta because he had close down Mafia gambling opera tions in Havana.

Mr. Giancana had many Ha vana connections before th Castro revolution. According t press reports, Mr. Roselli mad two major unsuccessful at tempts to assassinate Mr. Cas tro. One involved a plot t poison him and the other in vzved shooting him with high powered rifles during a publi appearance.